Dear mother,

Life in America is 10 times better than the life we were forced to live in Europe. My journey to America was a bit tough, because some of the immigrants did not get to touch America’s soils. Bringing about different diseases and such, but no worries, we were all checked when we reached Ellis Island. I paid my admission, and now I am living a different life. Remember in Europe, laws were put in place to keep fellow Russians under the unfair “belt” of working in sweatshops. Not here in America. You can get a fair job with a fair pay. At least compared to what we are used to. That is the main reason why I left. Hopefully you can visit soon.

Love,

Carlie

Response:

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Dear family,

On the trip to Angel. We spent many hours on the sea. We had small rations. The only way I survived was knowing my family back home depended on me. Many died from disease on the way. In the first two days, half of the people had died. My family has been on their last coins. I had to find a way to release my family from the slums of poverty. So I had to go to work. Business is going well. I have low wages and poor working conditions, but I make enough to feed the little ones. I hope I hear from you soon.

Love,

Max

Response:

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Dear parents,

My journey to America was pretty good actually. I enjoyed seeing the beautiful Statue of Liberty on Ellis Island. I left my homeland of Europe because of the opportunities of a better life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I will have to find work in a factory for now, until I have the financial leverage I need for housing my self. Overall everything is okay. The working conditions, though, aren’t too showy. The housing conditions are actually better than expected. I have assimilated very well and I feel like I now have a normal American life.

Joseph

Response:

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Dear family,

I’m finally in America. It’s great over here now but the journey was not so great. The boat was so cramped. Ten men had to share sleeping places. Then it was full of bacteria, sick people, so I spent most of my time on the deck. On this journey, I’ve witnessed a lot of deaths but the fact that I survived means I’m going to do great things. I had to leave because I couldn’t fulfill my potential there. I needed a new state of mind a release from poverty. I left our poor homeland to bring back riches.

Benjamin

Response:

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Dear loved ones,

My journey wasn’t all of that, we slept in uncomfortable places that made me unable to sleep at night. We also had to be processed before entering the United States which was weird because I never experienced that before. Our first stop was Ellis Island and those with health problems and diseases were sent home. I left our home country because I wanted a better living condition and I felt as though the United States was was the place for me. I also have a job where I work in a Northenr factory and they offer me long hours and low wages, with unsafe conditions. My experience overall is okay. I can get used to it. Other than my working conditions. My housing conditions is good. I stay in an ethnic neighborhood and I live whre I can find a better job. I miss you.

Anne

Response:

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Dear family,

My journey to America was kind of tough. I was asked too many questions as an immigrant and they checked everyone too to see how healthy they were. If any of us had health problems, we were sent home. We slept in a huge hall and lacked warm blankets so we were cold the whole night. But I had to come here. I need to find a job and make money so I can make a living and be able to send you guys some. I will most likely work in a factory despite working conditions and low wages. But I will stay. I live in a neighborhood with people in the same ethnicity as me, German, and we also pooled money to build places of worship for our neighborhood. The working conditions here are unsafe, there’s low wages, and long hours, but I can mange. I feel welcome here. I have learned to assimilate. I am taking English and citizenship classes. I am okay here. Take care of yourselves back home.

Faith

Response:

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Dear family,

I’m writing this letter because I immigrated to the United States. When I landed I went to Ellis Island. There I was being processed into the U.S. The process was long as stressful. I had a physical examination, then I was asked a bunch of questions. I passed them all for $8 I had to pay. I left home because there was no jos and I need money to proved for myself. As soon as I walked into the U.S. I searched for a job. I was lucky and now I sew and mend clothing. At the job it is me and so other people are crammed into one small room. I am paid $10 a week for 12 hours. And the conditions are horrible. Housing conditions are okay. I’ll say it’s a small room. I feel different now but I think I’ll assimilate in a few months.

I miss you all back home.

Julie

Response:

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